

Message Text

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FOR NASA

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJ: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 191260

1. EMBASSY STAFF VERY MUCH APPRECIATES OPPORTUNITY PROPOSED IN REFTEL TO BE BRIEFED ON ASTP BY LUNNEY AND LEE. WE RECOMMEND THAT BRIEFINGS FOR STAFF AND US MEDIA REPS IN MOSCOW BE HELD BACK-TO-BACK ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 18, THE FIRST STARTING AT 15:30 AND THE SECOND AT 16:30. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THIS TIMING ACCEPTABLE, AND WHETHER STAFF BRIEFING MIGHT BE SO PITCHED AS TO PERMIT INCLUSION OF OUR SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS FROM ANGLO-AMERICAN SCHOOL. SHOWING A SHORT FILM OR OTHER VISUAL AIDES ON THE PROJECT WOULD BE OF DEFINITE INTEREST IN WAY OF INTRODUCTION IF NASA HAS ANY AVAILABLE TO BRING.

2. AS TO BRIEFING OF US MEDIA REPS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THAT LUNNEY AND LEE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR INEVITABLE DELUGE OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING RECENT APPARENT FAILURE OF SOYUZ 15 TO ACHIEVE DOCKING WITH SALYUT 3, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON HOW THIS MIGHT AFFECT PLANS FOR THE JOINT MISSION.
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